

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 14, 15 and 24-29, and please cancel claims 20-23 and 30-33, as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:

a server cluster, comprising:

a plurality of server nodes, wherein each server node comprises:

a server container;

one or more applications configured to execute within the server container; and

a Java Data Object (JDO) persistence manager configured to detect changes to application state data within the server container and to persist the application state data; and

a persistent data store coupled to the cluster, configured to store application state data of the one or more applications of each respective server container, and configured to make the application state data accessible to each of the plurality of server nodes;

wherein in response to detecting a change in application state data within the server container, the JDO persistence manager is configured to persist only a changed portion of the application state data within the respective server container to the persistent data store.

2. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the JDO persistence manager is configured to persist only mutated application state data to the data store, only in response to mutation of the application state data.

3. (Original) The system, as recited in claim 1, wherein the application state data comprises hypertext transfer protocol (http) session data.

4. (Original) The system, as recited in claim 1, wherein the application state data comprises a session bean.

5. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a JDO-style write barrier configured to detect mutation of the application state data.

6. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein one or more of the applications is configured to function as a distributed application across two or more of the server nodes.

7. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the plurality of server nodes is configured to detect the failure of a cluster node and recover sessions from a failed node by accessing session state data from the persistent data store.

8. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a non-sticky load balancer configured to distribute session requests to server nodes based on server workload, wherein the persistence mechanism is configured to synchronize session data to the persistent store.

9. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:

an application server, comprising;

an application server container;

one or more applications configured to execute within the application server container; and

a Java Data Object (JDO) persistence manager configured to detect changes to application state data within the application server container and to persist the application state data; and

a persistent data store coupled to the application server, configured to store application state data of the one or more applications, and configured to make the application state data accessible to the application server and one or more other application servers;

wherein in response to detecting a change in application state data within the application server container, the JDO persistence manager is configured to persist only a changed portion of the application state data within the application server container to the persistent data store.

10. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the JDO persistence manager is configured to persist only mutated application state data to the data store, only in response to mutation of the application state data.

11. (Original) The system, as recited in claim 9, wherein the application state data comprises hypertext transfer protocol (http) session data.

12. (Original) The system, as recited in claim 9, wherein the application state data comprises a session bean.

13. (Original) The system as recited in claim 9, further comprising a JDO-style write barrier configured to detect mutation of the application state data.

14. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

a Java Data Object (JDO) persistence manager detecting an access to application state data within a server;

the JDO persistence manager determining whether the access alters the application state, in response to said detecting; and

in response to determining that the access alters the application state within the server, the JDO persistence manager persisting only the elements of the application state that are changed by the access to a persistent store, ~~if the access alters the application state that makes the application state accessible to the server and to one or more other servers.~~

15. (Currently amended) The method, as recited in claim 14, wherein the JDO persistence manager persisting comprises persisting only mutated application state data to the data store, only in response to mutation of the application state data.

16. (Original) The method, as recited in claim 14, wherein the application state data comprises hypertext transfer protocol (http) session data.

17. (Original) The method, as recited in claim 14, wherein the application state data comprises a session bean.

18. (Original) The method, as recited in claim 14, wherein said determining is performed by a JDO-style write barrier configured to detect mutation of the application state data.

19. (Original) The method, as recited in claim 14, wherein said application state data comprises state data for one or more applications configured to function as a distributed application across two or more server nodes of a cluster.

20. – 23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A computer-accessible storage carrier medium storing ~~comprising~~ program instructions, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to implement a Java Data Object (JDO) persistence manager configured to:

detect an access to application state data within a server;

in response to said detecting, determine whether the access alters the application state; and

in response to determining that [[if]] the access alters the application state within the server, persist only the elements of the application state that are changed by the access to a persistent store that makes the application state accessible to the server and to one or more other servers.

25. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible storage carrier medium as recited in claim 24, wherein the JDO persistence manager is configured to persist only mutated application state data to the data store, only in response to mutation of the application state data.

26. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible storage carrier medium as recited in claim 24, wherein the application state data comprises hypertext transfer protocol (http) session data.

27. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible storage carrier medium as recited in claim 24, wherein the application state data comprises a session bean.

28. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible storage ~~earrier~~ medium as recited in claim 24, wherein a JDO-style write barrier detects mutation of the application state data.

29. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible storage ~~earrier~~ medium as recited in claim 24, wherein said application state data comprises state data for one or more applications configured to function as a distributed application across two or more server nodes of a cluster.

30. – 33. (Canceled)